



NIGERIA

Nigeria is home to nearly half of West Africa's population and has one of the largest youth populations in the world. As many as 4 in 10 Nigerians live in poverty and many lack access to quality education, basic infrastructure and sufficient sources of income, according to the World Bank. Climate shocks, increasing conflict and poor health outcomes are additional burdens to vulnerable Nigerians. Globally, Nigeria has the highest number of malaria cases and the second largest number of people living with HIV. Tuberculosis and poor maternal and child health are also significant concerns in the country.

Lutheran World Relief brings the integrated expertise of its fellow Corus International organizations, including IMA World Health, to holistically address the interconnected challenges of poverty, health care access and climate change in Nigeria. Lutheran World Relief collaborates with the Nigerian government, private sector and local partners to analyze market systems, strengthen agriculture value chains and the capacities of enterprises, and promote livelihood diversification, rural financing, climate smart and improved agriculture practices, and sustainable water and land management with smallholder farmers.



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OUR GLOBAL APPROACHES

Agriculture

Lutheran World Relief helps rural communities develop productive, resilient and stable economies through a market systems enterprise development approach that engages the private sector at multiple levels, creating profitable partnerships that benefit families and promote rural livelihoods and agriculture value chains. We train farmers in climate smart agricultural practices, post-harvest processing and storage as well as in other value-adding skills. We strengthen the capacity of cooperatives and unions that serve these farmers through training in governance and financial management, facilitating joint negotiation of credit and other services, and boosting collective marketing and sales.

Climate Resilience

Lutheran World Relief works with rural communities to adapt to and mitigate the effects of a changing climate on their agriculture-based livelihoods. We emphasize environmental rehabilitation through the implementation of soil and water conservation works and watershed management on community land, as well as tree seedling production for community-led reforestation.

Humanitarian Assistance

Lutheran World Relief meets the immediate needs of households, IDPs, and refugees affected by conflict, natural disasters, and food and water crises through food, material resources, and cash assistance as well as shelter and WASH support. As immediate needs are met, we seamlessly transition to providing the knowledge and resources they need to start, diversify, and strengthen livelihoods and reduce their vulnerabilities in the future.

As part of our efforts to strengthen farmers' resilience and support their well-being, Lutheran World Relief also looks for opportunities in Nigeria to apply IMA World Health's experience in treating and preventing diseases, responding to and mitigating gender-based violence (GBV) and improving maternal and child health, building off of IMA's past experience responding to COVID-19 in the country.

Project Highlights

Traceability and Resilience in Agriculture and Cocoa Ecosystems of Nigeria (TRACE)

Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food for Progress Program, TRACE is a five-year project that improves Nigeria's cocoa productivity through climate smart agriculture and expand its traceability for stronger marketability. In partnership with the federal and state governments of Nigeria, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN), Ecometrica, and C-Lever.org. Lutheran World Relief implements TRACE in Nigeria's cocoa-producing states of Abia, Ikwa Ibom, Cross River, Ekiti, Ondo, and Osun States. By the end of the project, over 51,000 smallholder farmers will be trained, resulting in a doubling of cocoa productivity and establishing a comprehensive (farm to export) traceability system that meets global standards. More than 68,400 farmers will gain access to markets, and over 366,000 hectares of farmland will be under improved climate risk reduction and/or natural resource management practices.

Child Labor Education and Resilience (CLEAR)

With funding from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), Lutheran World Relief works to reduce child labor among cocoa farmers in Ondo State in complement to its USDA Food for Progress TRACE project. The project addresses the underlying causes of child labor in the cocoa sector, including limited knowledge about child labor, insufficient income generating opportunities for adults and a lack of opportunities to build life skills for children. Mirroring UNICEF's international child protection system strengthening standards, the project is implementing a community-based Child Labor Monitoring and Remediation System (CLMRS). Other interventions include sensitization activities for teachers, parents and key community stakeholders, capacity

strengthening for parents, and entrepreneurial activities/clubs for adolescents. The project is also improving cocoa families' access to Village Savings and Loans (VSLAs) to strengthen their livelihoods' resilience to shocks that might have forced them to turn to child labor in the past.

COVID-19 Response in Nigeria

Lutheran World Relief's fellow Corus organization IMA World Health partnered with the Africa Christian Health Associations Platform to support a COVID-19 response by the Christian Health Association of Nigeria (CHAN). Activities implemented included sharing targeted information for health care workers, religious leaders and community members, providing equipment and supplies to implement infection prevention and control in health care facilities, and supporting surveillance, referrals and home-based care. IMA also helped CHAN engineer boreholes to ensure a clean and reliable water supply of 10 of its hospitals.

The Corus Effect

Founded by Lutherans in the United States at the end of World War II to serve refugees, Lutheran World Relief has grown into a leading humanitarian assistance and development organization that specializes in analyzing market systems, strengthening agriculture value chains and the capacities of enterprises, and promoting livelihood diversification, rural financing, climate smart and improved agriculture practices, and sustainable water and land management.

Lutheran World Relief is a part of the Corus International family, an ensemble of long-serving, global leaders in international development and humanitarian assistance committed to ending poverty and building healthy communities across Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Africa. Alongside communities and local partners in fragile settings, Corus' dedicated experts across the family of organizations integrate disciplines, approaches and resources to overcome global health challenges, develop productive and stable economies, improve resilience in the face of climate change, and respond to natural disasters and humanitarian crises.



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